

1. [currently amended] A method for producing a heterologous protein which comprises
  - 1) culturing a mutant coryneform bacterium having a genetic expression construct wherein a nucleic acid sequence encoding a signal peptide region derived from a coryneform bacterium is ~~connected to the~~ downstream of a promoter sequence which functions in a coryneform bacterium and a nucleic acid sequence encoding a heterologous protein is ~~connected to the~~ downstream of said nucleic acid sequence encoding said signal peptide region, said mutant coryneform bacterium ~~being a mutant coryneform bacterium~~ having a capacity of secreting the heterologous protein at least 2-fold higher than the wild type *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC13869,
  - 2) allowing said mutant coryneform bacterium to produce said heterologous protein, and
  - 3) recovering said ~~produced~~ heterologous protein.
2. [currently amended] The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said mutant coryneform bacterium is *Corynebacterium glutamicum* AJ12036 (FERM BP-734) or a mutant thereof.
3. [currently amended] The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said mutant coryneform bacterium ~~is a mutant strain which~~ does not produce a cell surface protein and which is derived from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* AJ12036 (FERM BP-734)
4. [currently amended] The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 3, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises is a signal peptide of a cell surface protein from a coryneform bacterium.
5. [currently amended] The method of ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 3, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises is a signal peptide of a cell surface protein from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.
6. [currently amended] The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the~~ said signal peptide region comprises has the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ

ID NO:1 or and SEQ ID NO:2.

7. [currently amended] The method of ~~any one~~ of claim 1 to ~~3~~, wherein the said signal peptide region comprises is a signal peptide of a cell surface protein derived from *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*.

8. [currently amended] The method of claim 7, wherein the said signal peptide comprises has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

9. [currently amended] The method of claim 5 or ~~7~~, wherein the said signal peptide has comprises a sequence having at least one replacement, deletion, addition, or insertion of an amino acid, or a combination thereof in the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 to SEQ ID NO:3.

10. [currently amended] The method of ~~any one~~ of claim 1 to ~~9~~, wherein the said cultureing of said the mutant coryneform bacterium is conducted in a medium containing at least 0.25 g/l (2.25mM) or more of calcium ion.

11. [currently amended] The method of ~~any one~~ of claim 1 to ~~9~~, wherein the said cultureing of the mutant coryneform bacterium is conducted controlling the dissolved oxygen concentration at 3% or less.

12. [new] The method of claim 7, wherein said signal peptide comprises a sequence having at least one replacement, deletion, addition, or insertion of an amino acid, or a combination thereof in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.